



CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF

PUBLIC SAFETY

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME 3
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MAY 2015

In this issue: [Focus Area Update](#) | [Gleaners CAREs](#) | [Excellence in Government](#)
[2015 Season Tip-Off Jam for Youth Summer Jobs](#)



This newsletter has been used to inform and address a litany of issues, and to serve as a way to celebrate the accomplishments of our 3,200 employees. I have also taken time to address rumors or concerns that I hear from you as I visit roll calls, fire houses and various offices within our department.

With that said, and in the spirit of openness and transparency, I want to address the question everyone is asking me. And, that is, "Am I planning to leave my role as our City's Director of Public Safety or will I stay until the end of the year?"

The answer is simple: I don't know. As I write this newsletter, I have not applied for any positions.

One thing is certain. While employed as the Director of Public Safety I will continue to work hard on behalf of our citizens. Our jobs are difficult, important, and certainly make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

While quality of life and safety continue to be enhanced for a majority of our citizens, we must remember that not everyone is sharing in this success. We still have areas where decades of decay have occurred and, as a city, we must rally to assist some of our most vulnerable -- those who live in areas where violence, vacant homes, mental illness, and a host of other issues continue to be prevalent.

Stay focused. This is much more significant than worrying about who is or isn't the Director of Public Safety.

God Bless and stay safe // Troy

***"Our jobs are
difficult, important,
and certainly make a
difference in the lives
of those we serve."***

-- Director Troy Riggs

Have a question, suggestion or comment to share with Director Riggs or the department? Please e-mail it to us at:

dps@indy.gov



Community rallies around focus areas

Director of Public Safety Director Troy Riggs made one thing very clear when he and Mayor Greg Ballard launched the new focus area philosophy in the fall of 2014.

Riggs said government couldn't go it alone and the effort could only sustain itself long-term if the Indianapolis community stepped up to support it.

The message was clearly received based on a review of the first-quarter results of the new effort, as more than 30 City agencies and community partners have teamed up to bring long-term positive change to the six areas.

Focus Area Partners

"The level of support we have received to date has been overwhelming," said Riggs.

"I've been asked nationally about what we are building here and how it can be replicated in other cities. I've been sincere in telling people that I am not sure it can be replicated elsewhere because the spirit of community and cooperation we've experienced is what I like to call 'uniquely Indianapolis.'"

A two-year review of crime and quality of life data led the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the six areas, which are identified by intersections at West 16th Street and North Tibbs Avenue, West 29th Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, West 34th Street and North Illinois Street, East 38th Street and North Sherman Drive, East New York Street and North Sherman Drive, and East 42nd Street and North Post Road. While the department continues to strategize on near-term and long-term crime reduction, the data revealed long-standing systemic issues that can only be addressed through a sustained community-wide effort.

Other data points recently compiled by DPS reinforce initial theories that focus area improvement may be slow to arrive. The total number of criminal homicides for the first quarter of 2015 dropped by double digits in the city overall as compared to 2014 (38 to 27), but the number of murders in the six focus areas rose by two, from seven in 2014 to nine in 2015. Non-fatal shootings in the focus areas were also up by two in 2015 (22 to 24), while the non-fatal shooting rate city-wide remained flat year-over-year (80 and 80).

"So far in 2015, we are encouraged to see such a significant decrease in the number of criminal homicides in the city. But, any loss of life is tragic and unacceptable, and we will never celebrate a reduction in the number of people we lose to violence," said Riggs.

"Our friends and neighbors who call the focus areas 'home' still need our help and will need our help for years to come. Our work has only just begun, but our community has provided us with a great foundation. I'm proud of Indianapolis."



DPS, Gleaners team up to fight hunger

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana have announced a partnership to address hunger this summer in the six DPS focus areas. Out of that partnership, the Community Action Relief Effort (CARE) was created.

Through CARE, Gleaners will provide a weekly mobile food pantry that will move between various locations in each of the designated focus areas to provide access to as many community members as possible. The focus areas are identified by intersections at 16th and Tibbs, 29th and MLK, 34th and Illinois, 38th and Sherman, 42nd and Post and New York and Sherman.



"It is humbling for Mayor Ballard and me to see a community leader like Gleaners step forward so quickly and with so much passion to help those who call our focus areas home," said Director of Public Safety Troy Riggs. "No one in our city should have to be hungry. We just cannot accept that. Thanks to Gleaners, we will take a few steps toward reducing hunger in our focus areas this summer and make life a little bit better for those who deserve it."

The mobile pantry distributions will be manned by community and DPS volunteers. Gleaners will stock the mobile pantries with an emphasis on nutritious foods, including fresh produce and foods high in protein.

"We see it everyday and understand that hunger and conflict go hand-in-hand," said Cindy Hubert, President and CEO of Gleaners. "Empty stomachs breed panic and desperation, and while the CARE program is an effort to address a systemic problem like hunger, it more importantly is an opportunity to show the people in these areas there is hope."

The CARE mobile pantries will begin the first week of June and run through the first week of September. Exact times, dates and locations are being finalized and will be announced later this month.

Every month we honor you and your DPS teammates for the great work you do – each and every day.

And, there's free pizza!



Nominate Continuous Excellence Today

<http://bit.ly/excellence-in-gov>

Honors bestowed at Fire Police Deputy Sheriff Awards



The 47th Annual Fire Police Deputy Sheriff's Community Recognition Luncheon was held April 14 at Banker's Life Fieldhouse.

Honors were bestowed on a number of IFD and IMPD personnel.

Honoring those who risk their lives to save others, community partners recognized Firefighters, Police Officers and Sheriff's Deputies for outstanding service in 2014.

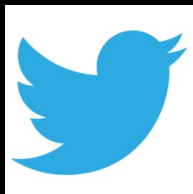
Title Sponsor Citizens Energy Group hosted the luncheon with support from over 30 local businesses and philanthropic organizations.

The honorees were nominated by their peers and chosen by a committee made up of representatives from the sponsoring organizations.

Congratulations to all who were honored this year!



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our Facebook page — search for
"Indianapolis Department of Public Safety"



Director for a Day - Leadership Indianapolis

The Department of Public Safety's "Director for a Day" program continues to be a big hit and the April outing lived up to expectations. We were honored to host an impressive group of individuals from Leadership Indianapolis, who took full advantage of their opportunity to learn about DPS.



Leadership Indianapolis is a new organization created by two of central Indiana's most prominent community leadership groups – the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series® (SKL) and Lacy Leadership Association (LLA).

The mission of the organization is to develop and mobilize a robust pipeline of community leaders that can address and solve the issues and opportunities facing our growing metro area – for today and for the future.



The Leadership Indianapolis group was treated to a snapshot of the critical work done by DPS personnel, including that which is done on scene by EMS responders (above). They also experienced a small portion of the training that accompanies a career in DPS.



Want to suggest a good Director for a Day?

Please e-mail us at: dps@indy.gov

Excellence in Government Award Winners

DPS honored five deserving employees for their hard work at the March "Excellence in Government" luncheon. They, and their guests, were treated to lunch with Director Riggs, Deputy Director Valerie Washington and the Director's Office staff, hosted by and sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen. (Gerald Kellems was honored in March, but couldn't join for lunch until April, when he received his award.)



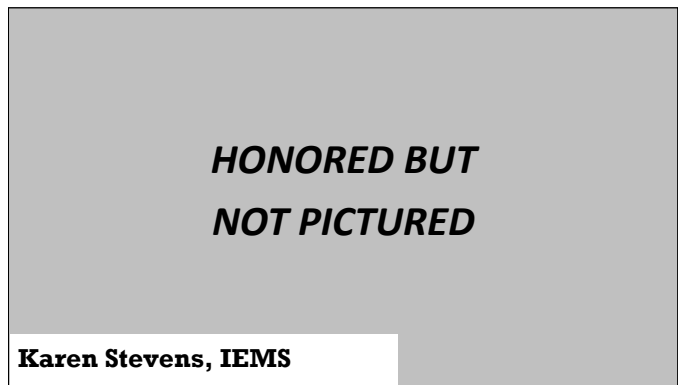
Lea Gurnell, IMPD



Gerald Kellems, ACC



Jan Rhoads, IMPD



Karen Stevens, IEMS



Gina Weathers, IMPD



Nominate Continuous Excellence Today

<http://bit.ly/excellence-in-gov>

Excellence in Government Award Winners

Five more deserving DPS employees were honored for their hard work at the “Excellence in Government” luncheon in April. They, and their guests, were treated to lunch with the Director’s Office staff, hosted by and sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen.

***HONORED BUT
NOT PICTURED***

Candace Abbitt, ACC



Ann Anderson, IEMS



Paul Scott, IMPD

***HONORED BUT
NOT PICTURED***

Clara Simeone, IFD



Regina Stringer, IMPD



Nominate Continuous Excellence Today

<http://bit.ly/excellence-in-gov>

Nominations now open for 2015 DPS Awards



The 2015 Department of Public Safety “Recognition of Excellence” Awards ceremony will be held later this year and nominations are now being accepted to determine who will earn those accolades.

65 deserving winners representing DPS, City of Indianapolis and the community overall were honored at the 2014 ceremony, which was described by one DPS award winner as “the greatest experience” of his life.

Nominations will be accepted online this summer and into the early fall, but employees are encouraged to nominate their peers as soon as they recognize a moment of excellence that is deserving of a 2015 award.

For more information, please e-mail Director Riggs’ office at dps@indy.gov. Good luck to all!

2015 Public Safety “Recognition of Excellence” Awards

<http://bit.ly/dps-awards>

*It is once again time to nominate one of the
unsung heroes who work alongside you every
day for a 2015 Public Safety
“Recognition of Excellence” Award.*

*The 2015 awards will be presented in December
to those employees of DPS who have gone above
and beyond their normal duties while
exemplifying the recognizable good qualities
and high standards of DPS.*

Nominate someone today!

INDY PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH INDIANA FEVER,
OWL MUSIC GROUP, RADIO ONE AND DOWNTOWN INDY PRESENT

Downtown on Georgia Street

2015 Season Tip-Off Jam *for Youth Summer Jobs*

Saturday, June 6

3 pm - 7 pm

Enjoy live entertainment from:

- * Rob Dixon
- * Gordon Bonham
- * Staci McCrackin
- * On-air celebs from Radio One

on Georgia Street
at Pennsylvania Street

*Food, family fun and more!
Free admission!*

Indiana
vs.
Minnesota



Saturday
June 6
7:00 p.m.

CHEER ON THE INDIANA FEVER
AND SUPPORT THE CAUSE
WITH A SPECIAL TICKET OFFER FOR
THE JUNE 6TH HOME OPENER AT
BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE!

Our city's youth need our help.

To a young person in need, a summer job can be the difference — the difference between hope and hopelessness, between worth and worthlessness, and between right and wrong.

A summer job not only provides income. A summer job provides structure, motivation, mentors, self-worth, self-esteem and direction.

Please help us fund summer jobs programs for our Indianapolis youth by supporting the 2015 Season Tip-Off Jam. You CAN make a difference.

DONATE TODAY! www.IndyPSF.org

VISIT

**WWW.FEVERGROUPS.COM/DPS
FOR DETAILS!**

